

MINUTES FROM THE 3rd Meeting of the Illinois Fish and Wildlife Action Team

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL
DNR Board Room – 3rd Floor
February 7th, 2007 10:00 am

Members Present: Leslie Sgro, Deborah Stone, Mike Conlin, Joel Cross, James Renn, Mike Redmer, Nancy Erickson, Tom Clay, Thomas Trent, Gregg Good, Randy Heidorn, Dick Little, Brenda Potts, Gene Barickman, Tom Schartz, Traci Barkley, Jim Herkert, Kevin Bennett, Brad Thomas, Ms. Terry Sarko, Charles Perino, Felecia Hurley, Scott Marlow, Jim Nelson, Kent Adams, John Buhnerkempe, Tim Schweizer

INTRODUCTIONS/ Opening Statement.....Leslie Sgro, Wildlife Action Team Chair

OLD BUSINESS

IL Wildlife Action Plan Executive Summary - Jim Renn showed the new executive summary magazine style promotion brochure for the Wildlife Action Plan, shipment arrived on Feb 9th and the team put in their orders. The IDNR mail room will be fulfilling the orders as soon as possible and before the dates certain members requested.

Status of the Comprehensive Conservation Survey - Jim Renn gave an update of the survey and stated that the current survey, from the "Survey Monkey" website was being put on hold due to the upcoming Wiki SharePoint website software having a "survey" feature and that it made more sense to include the survey within the existing SharePoint software rather than have two different software programs with which to contend.

Coordination Procedures Between IDNR Offices - Joe Cross explained the current process in which the different offices within IDNR are being brought together within the framework of the IDNR Workgroup and that group has met twice now. The 2nd meeting of the IDNR Workgroup discussed

NEW BUSINESS

Roundtable Updates from Team Members - A round table forum was opened up for each member to talk about a success story they have in implementing the Wildlife Action Plan.

Report of Conservation Activity by team members:

- USFWS - \$350,000 Wetland grant at Illinois Beach State Park
- IEPA –Lake / Streams Permit change / C2000 (IL Clean Lake / Shoreline erosion control on lakes) Sec 319 of Clean Water Act - new wetlands – CTAP (National Wetland Inventory)
- WCS grant - Pheasants Forever receive request to submit a Full Proposal
- Audubon Society - Luft - 56 Acres Shawnee / 156 Acres Prairie Ridge Area / grassland Management C2000 grant for Montgomery County
- TNC - wants IDNR to come up with a list of important lands to be bought
Emiquon restoration to start immediately - 365 acres of tall grass prairie – 400 acres habitat
218 acres of wetland – 21 acres of upland forest - working with NRCS and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

- U.S. Army Corps of Eng - working on Rick Lake / IL River – Peoria Lakes / Navigation Survey / Emiquon
- USFWS - 2-28-07 is deadline to engage with IDNR

Deborah Stone asked for a list of on-the-ground projects that are taking place now or will start soon that would be “high profile” projects as viewed by the Illinois public.

RFP for SWG '07 Allocation – Jim Renn discussed that the new 2007 State Wildlife Grant was “live” on the website now and applications are being taken. The SWG website has been revamped and is much more user friendly now.

Other Grant Opportunities – Jim Renn briefly talked about other grant funding opportunities that are available now and pass out a handout listing all of the deadlines.

DEMO of SharePoint software - Charlie Foor, GIS Manager for the Watershed Protection Section, played a Microsoft demo of the SharePoint software which listed some of the most prominent features of the software.

LUNCH was provided by IDNR

WEBSITE CONCEPTUAL DESIGN – Joel Cross

Break-Out Sessions - The team broke up into groups by Issue Campaigns and discussed how and what should be included in the design if the team’s new SharePoint website.

Break-Out Group Reports - Each Issue Campaign group picked a spokesperson and they gave a brief synopsis of what their group thought would be the most important functions for the new SharePoint website to include.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The Team picked April 24th for the next meeting of the IL Fish and Wildlife Action Team. It will be at IDNR building again, in the same room, 10 am - 2 pm and lunch will be provided.

Action Team suggests next Agenda Items - The Action Team suggested that the following topics be discussed at the next meeting:

- SWG Projects – what projects are currently being funded
- Update of Forestry Management Plans
- Develop an Overall Marketing Campaign to promote the IL Wildlife Action Plan to the State Congress and the public.
- Follow up on the update of the IL Natural Areas Inventory.
- Identify Challenges / Obstacles to Implementation
- Funding Support for Action Team Functions
- Follow up on the IL Wildlife Action Plan’s update of the Plant Species in Greatest Need of Conservation.